

CITY NAMED HEBER

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constructed. The sun had not yet topped 'The Mountain' when the venturesome group urged their little train eastward upslope following the trace of the road they had "completed" the previous fall. The Wasatch winter had all but erased their back-breaking efforts of a few months earlier. The 11 frontiersmen were James Carlile, George Carlile, William Giles Jr., William Carpenter, Jesse Bond, Henry Chatwin, John Carlile, John Jordan, Charles N. Carroll, Thomas Rasband and John Crook.

We hear from John Crook frequently during the subsequent years. Apparently Crook was a dedicated recorder of those eventful days. His chronicle reads "April 30, 1859, we camped at a snowslide in Provo Canyon that night. The next morning we pulled our wagons to pieces and carried them to the top of the snowslide which was about a quarter of a mile wide.

We thought we were the first settlers to arrive in the valley that spring, but when we reached the present site of Heber we saw two teams plowing north of us which proved to be William Davidson with two yoke of oxen and Robert Broadhead and James Davis with a similar outfit between them. We found that William Davidson had his family here, which I believe was the first family in the valley".

After a brief salutation the 11 moved on to a bright spring flowing about one mile north of the present Heber City. Crook notes it as being "the best land in the valley". Since they were in the majority and since most of the 11 were of British descent they named the spring "London"; they made their camp here and the name remains as London Spring. Losing no time, each man selected his allotment of land and quickly began to clear and prepare to plant.

In June 1859, the deputy county surveyor of Utah County, Jesse Fuller, laid out the town of London. The sturdy log cabins were constructed from green cottonwood logs hauled from the riverbottoms and arranged in a compact rectangle leaving only space between each cabin for a guarded access to the inner-court.

With the seed in the ground and the new homes in readiness, the little party of men again made the three-day journey to Provo to unite and bring their families to the new land. That first growing season yielded nearly one thousand bushels of grain — a first rate start.

With a fair harvest of hay and grain there were now 18 families determined to brave the long Wasatch winter. Some less determined were to return to Provo, preferring the amenities of "the city". The first birth recorded among the colonizers occurred in November — a daughter of William Davidson and his wife Ellen. Appropriately the little girl was named Timpanogos — the Indian name for the valley and The Mountain.

The Davidsons were racking up a record of firsts. As predicted it was a severe winter — snow came early and heavy. For four months the colonizers were completely isolated from everything — not even a hermit trapper nor a wandering band of Indians appeared out of the vast whiteness; however, at Christmastime an adventuresome group from Provo breasted the snow and the mountains to spend part of the holidays with the pioneers.

The Wasatch winter held fast and by the first of April the pioneers began to have second thoughts. Winter-weary and anxious to get about further building, but with no sign of spring, they gathered at the home of Thomas Rasband to seek the help of the Lord. Humbly, earnestly and sincerely in prayer they let their needs be known. It is recorded "before the meeting was dismissed there was water dripping from the eaves of the house and spring was born in the valley".

Summer came, and in June 1860 there were more than 200 people living in the green lush valley. Most of the "North Field" was under the plow and a bounteous crop was expected. As was customary, a community building was erected — church, school, dance hall and theatre, all combined. The building was completed just in time to observe the 13th annual Pioneer Day celebration.

Since many of the colonizers were of British descent and had been converted to the Church by the mis-

sionary, Heber C. Kimball, it was only natural that their settlement was to become Heber City. President Kimball was invited to attend the new city and the observance of the ceremony.

He is reported to have said, "Now you people have named your little town after me, I want you to see to it that you are honest upright citizens and good Latter-Day Saints that I may not have cause to be ashamed of you".

As the community grew, so did community problems. It was soon evident fences were needed to contain the animals. Fencing required some judicial authority and thus came into being an unique political official, "the fence viewer".

Autumn harvests were good, however, the old mountain men's forecast of early frosts proved accurate. The 1860 harvest season brought an enterprising pair, Smith and Bullock, into the valley with the first thrashing machine, horse powered and inefficient. Slow but stable growth soon began to generate confidence and well-being. Choir and dramatics groups were formed. Our faithful chronicler, John Crook, was chosen as choir leader.

More romantic activities were also taking place — on Christmas Day, 1860, Thomas Rasband, by ecclesiastical and judicial authority, united Charles C. Thomas and Emmaine Sessions as man and wife. The first marriage to be performed in Heber City.

In the second ceremony, only a few hours after the first, Harvey Meeks claimed as his bride a Miss Dougal. They were married by Silas Smith at Center Creek.

In 1862, the first property valuation of the county was reported as \$48,350. In true frontier fashion, the independent spirits of the settlers did not readily accept the concept of property taxation. From the beginning, the burdens of the selectmen were many and varied.

In September of 1860 the Court House Committee reported to the selectmen that the construction costs to date were \$3,793.66. Upon completion two years later in 1862, the total costs were approximately \$4,600 plus \$250 for furniture.
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unds were slow coming in — taxes were assessed but paid with little enthusiasm.

The tax collector's life, never an exceptionally happy nor popular one, is illustrated by his reluctant report and subsequent events recorded in the selectmen meeting minutes "...taxes collected \$147.18 — taxes past due \$327.23." The following session of the selectmen meeting minutes state simply and succinctly "...a new collector and assessor was appointed".

By 1864-1865 many of the rude cabins had been replaced with substantial masonry homes of the fine red sandstone so plentiful in the area. Many of these homes are standing, sturdy and strong after many decades of service. Many are still occupied by progeny of the prominent families of that harsh and austere period when providing the next meal for the family was almost in the mind of the provider.

The fact that the old names appear and reappear through the decades on the roster of "Provo" is fair evidence of it being still a good place to live.

The Mountain, the sleeping maiden, the majestic Timpanogos may yet be viewed as Padres Escalante and Dominguez viewed it in 1776 — glistening in the early morning sun, magnificently impressive, bejeweled by the perpetual glacier, reflecting with solemn mystery the legend of two—plus centuries as eternally endless, timeless silence.

"Once again do I behold these steep and lofty cliffs. That on a wild, secluded scene impress thoughts of more deep seclusion, And connect the landscape with the quiet of the sky". (Wordsworth - "Tintern Abbey").

EAST MILL CREEK CHAPTER SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS

— D.P. Bartschi

**Deadline for next issue
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GOLDEN ROAD

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Hoytsville, and Coalville to the mouth of Echo Canyon. Up to 60,000 Mormon Pioneers plus additional thousands of soldiers, merchants, gold seekers, Californians, and assorted "Gentiles" came down Echo Canyon to the Weber River. Most turned north to present day Henefer and into the Valley via Emigration Canyon. But some, including almost every important visitor to Salt Lake City between 1862 and the coming of the railroad in 1869, turned south down The Golden Road to the City of the Saints. (See map accompanying this article.)

Since the new Headquarters are right on this old road, the S.U.P. might very well exploit properly and fully this fortuitous circumstance. For example, the trail could become an annual run sponsored by the new Pioneer Trail Relay Chapter, the road could be more thoroughly researched, marked, written up, and publicized, and part of the S.U.P. Library could be devoted to it. Old maps of the trail could be framed and displayed. On the grounds of the trail could be framed and displayed. On the grounds of Headquarters an appropriate marker or monument could be placed telling the story of this old trail.

The Golden Road was born of Parley P. Pratt's desire to find an easier way into the Valley. His search commenced in late June, 1848, but it was not until the 1850 emigrant season that it was at all ready for travel. Pratt hoped, in vain, to recoup his time and money by collecting tolls. An ad in the third issue of the *Deseret News* (June 29, 1850) recommended his GOLDEN PASS or, NEW ROAD THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS and listed his tolls which ranged from "1 cent per head of sheep" to ".75 cents per conveyance drawn by two animals."

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FUND RAISING IN FULL SWING FOR NEW SUP BUILDING

Name to be inscribed in Plaque

Entered Valley or Born Prior to May 10, 1869

Date of Birth

Died

Where

Where

HONORS NAME

Current Address

Chapter Affiliation

At Large

at presently a member of SUP

LARKIN MORTUARY
260 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
PHONE 363-5781
Max Larkin-SLC Chapter, SUP